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Pete Wilson, Governor

22 September 1997

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***FINAL CLOSURE CERTIFICATION REPORT VOLUME 1, CASTLE AIR FORCE BASE,
MERCED COUNTY***

We have reviewed the *Final Closure Certification Report, Volume 1*, (Final Report) which we received on 15 July 1997. This report was prepared on behalf of the Air Force by Laguna Construction Company, Inc. and describes closure activities at numerous underground storage tank (UST) sites at Castle Air Force Base. The Report also includes Air Force responses to our comments on the draft version of the report.

In general, the Final Report is well prepared, and addresses all of our comments on the previous draft version, with the one exception noted below. Based on the information in the Final Report, we believe that the USTs at the following sites require no further work at this time: Facility 54, 175, 325, 395, 1038, 1230 (2 USTs), 1310, 1335, 1404, 1405, 1550, 1709, and 1715. A formal closure letter will be provided under separate cover for these sites. We had previously concurred with the no further action status at thirteen additional USTs in this Final Report.

We still believe that additional vertical characterization of the residual contamination present at the former UST site at Facility 1345 is required before we can concur with closure of this site. Our concerns remain the same as those discussed more fully in our 9 January 1997 letter on the draft closure report.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (916) 255-3066.

JOHN RUSSELL
Associate Engineering Geologist

cc: Ms. Lisa Hanusiak, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco
Mr. Rizgar Ghazi, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Sacramento
Mr. Jeff Palsgaard, Merced County Department of Health, Merced